

Press Release

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(Images available upon request)

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Senate passes funding bills for Peace Pole Project, Laverne Cox and promotes It's On Us Campaign in October

Early October, Senate passed a funding bill in support of the Peace Pole Project. This is an inter-departmental funding initiative and SGA approved the funds necessary to fill the gap between the total money already secured and the amount needed to build the sculpture. Other groups contributing to the project include the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Activities Council, Campus Ministries, Ulrich Museum of Art, and Student Engagement. The project was championed by Global Faith in Action and the result will be a statue designed by the WSU Sculpture Guild commemorating our university's support of world peace. Visit globalfaithinaction.org for more information.

Additionally, Student Government Association held their first outreach programming event, Sweets with the Senate, where senators chatted with the student body near the north entrance of the RSC in hopes to spread awareness of Student Government Association. Students were asked what SGA can do for them, what SGA has done for them, and other questions about campus life at Wichita State.

Later in the month, SGA passed a funding bill supporting the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Ambassadors' efforts to bring Laverne Cox to Wichita State. Cox is a transgender advocate who plays a leading role on the mainstream television show, *Orange is the New Black*, and is the first transgender actress to be featured on the cover of *TIME* magazine. Cox is set to speak on campus this upcoming spring on Wednesday, April 29.

Student Body President Matt Conklin expressed his support of the Laverne Cox event in his biweekly letter to the Sunflower. "We now have the unique opportunity to bring this renowned, in demand speaker to Wichita State to engage in an empowering conversation about tolerance, identity, and authenticity. I support bringing Laverne to campus because we need to practice our university's stated values: "diversity of culture, thought and experience." She represents a demographic that has historically not received the attention or value placed on other speakers. When was the last time we convened a large audience to listen to a woman, let alone a transgender woman? Or even a person of color?"

In the month ahead, SGA will continue to promote sexual assault awareness, education and prevention through the "It's On Us Campaign." Student Activities Council, Student Government Association, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be hosting a pledge drive on Wednesday, Nov. 19, near the north entrance of the RSC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information and to stay up to date with what SGA is up to, please visit www.wichita.edu/SGA or connect with us on Facebook and Twitter at Student Government Association of Wichita State and @WichitaStateSGA.

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